

The Detroit News

THE HOME NEWSPAPER

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 1969

12 sections
including TV and
Sunday Magazine

96th YEAR No. 332 30 CENTS

Ted escapes car plunge; woman drowns

From Special, AP and UPI Dispatches

EDGARTOWN, Mass. — A car driven by Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy plunged off a narrow bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, Mass., early Saturday, killing his woman companion.

She was identified as Mary Jo Kopechne, 28, of Washington, who was spending the weekend on nearby Martha's Vineyard Island.

The senator was physically uninjured in the accident.

Nearly nine hours went by before Kennedy—who said he was “exhausted and in a state of shock”—walked into the police headquarters at Edgartown, the main community on Martha’s Vineyard, to report what had happened.

LATE SATURDAY a source close to the Kennedys who asked not to be identified said the senator was still in a state of shock and was unable to hold a press conference to discuss the accident.

Kennedy aides were told not to discuss the accident with newsmen.

From Kennedy’s statement to police and from other sources, this story emerged:

The senator flew to Martha’s Vineyard from Washington Friday to take part in the annual Edgartown sailing regatta, and to

later join his wife and family on Hyannis Port this weekend.

Miss Kopechne, once a secretary to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, had gone to Martha’s Vineyard Thursday with five girl friends to spend a weekend at the beach.

AFTER SAILING in the regatta, Kennedy went to Chappaquiddick to spend the evening at a cottage with friends, whose identities have not been disclosed. Miss Kopechne was at the gathering.

Between 11 p.m. and midnight, Kennedy left the cottage in his own car to return to his room at the Shiretown Inn at Edgartown.

Miss Kopechne, who was staying at another hotel at Edgartown, was with him.

As Kennedy approached the road leading to the ferry that connects Chappaquiddick Island with Martha’s Vineyard, he made a wrong turn.

After driving about a half-mile he came to a small bridge that spans an inlet. The bridge is only 10½ feet wide, has no railings, and is used primarily by fishermen traveling in jeeps and beach buggies.

“The car went off the side of the bridge, turned over and sank into the water and landed with the roof resting on the bottom,” he said.

“I attempted to open the door and window

of the car but have no recollection of how I got out of the car,” he said.

“I came to the surface and then repeatedly dove down to the car in an attempt to see if the passenger was still in the car. I was unsuccessful in the attempt. I was exhausted and in a state of shock.”

AFTER HIS EFFORTS to rescue Miss Kopechne, the senator said he walked to the cottage where he had spent the evening. His friends, he said, were having dinner. He got into the back seat of a car parked at the cottage.

Later, one of his friends drove him back to Edgartown where, Kennedy recalled “walking around for a period of time and then going back to my hotel room.”

“When I fully realized what had happened this morning I immediately contacted the police.”

At about 8:20 a.m., Edgartown Police Chief Dominick Arena had received a call from Mrs. Pierre Maulin, whose house on Chappaquiddick is about 100 yards from the accident scene.

She reported an overturned car in the water. It was submerged except for the wheels.

(Concluded on Page 16A)

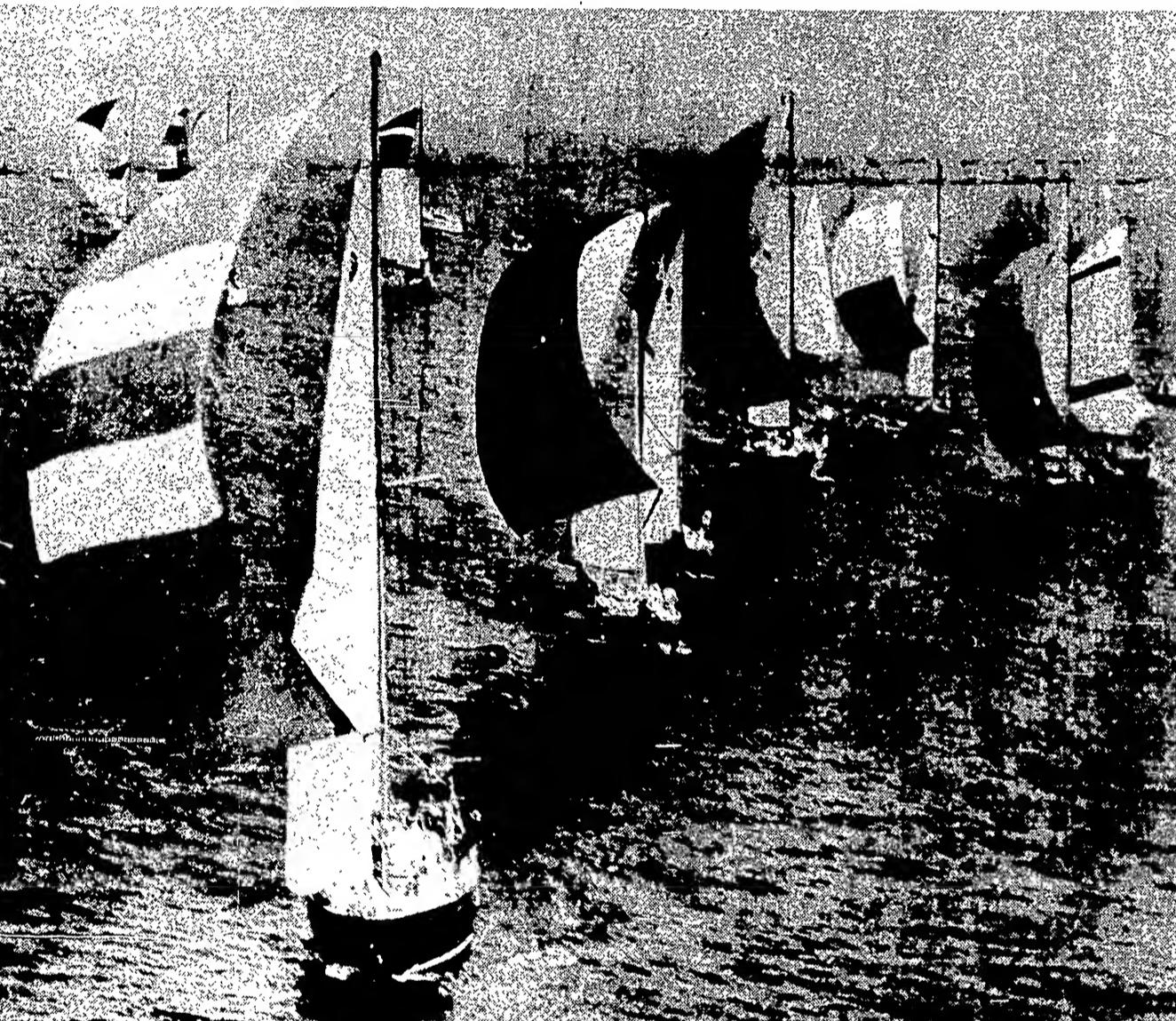


Mary Jo Kopechne—drowns

—AP Wirephotos



Senator Kennedy—escapes



ON TO MACKINAC—Benefiting from a last-minute break in the wind, this portion of a record 218 sailing yachts heads into Lake Huron on their way to Mackinac. This cluster of vessels is led by the Class A Diauolo under the command of Pete Stern Jr., of the

Chicago Yacht Club. Trapped in near-calm off Port Huron an hour before the starting time, the big fleet finally got under way when the wind swung from the north to the southeast and later to the south. (Story on Page 1D.)

—News Photo by James Kilpatrick

Circles moon in 2 hours

Russia's Luna 15 in new orbit

JODRELL BANK, England—(AP)—Luna 15 sailed into a new orbit around the moon Saturday.

Sir Bernard Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, said Luna 15 lengthened its trip around the moon by three to six minutes while making its 27th orbit. The probe had been orbiting every 2 hours 30 seconds.

OFFICIALS IN HOUSTON and at Jodrell Bank, the West’s chief listening post on secret Soviet space shots, said there are only remote possibilities that Luna and the Apollo 11 moonship could come in sight of each other or collide.

Soviet academician Mstislav V. Keldysh, chairman of the Soviet Academy of Science, gave assurances Friday in a message to U.S.

astronaut Col. Frank Borman that Luna 15 would not interfere with the U.S. flight.

Keldysh promised he would notify Borman if Luna’s orbit were changed.

Lovell said he did not know whether the change Saturday afternoon was significant enough for the Russians to inform the Americans of it.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that Luna 15 had changed course during its 27th orbit was made by Lovell after a radio telescope had detected a number of new elements in the probe’s performance.

During its 26th orbit, the probe had transmitted radio signals for an hour, its longest transmission, and had gone into a stabilized position. Earlier it had been reported spinning as it orbited.

Meanwhile it was learned the FBI and a special task force from the U.S. Department of Justice, operating in Detroit for the last year, were checking into the backgrounds of the two men—Armand Cerami and Anthony Charles Sweet—who purchased an Atlanta hotel and dropped it when they were rebuffed on a liquor license.

It was also learned the same investigators have more than a passing interest in the alleged telephone call from Detroit.

Cerami and Sweet are both from Miami, and, according to Atlanta police, are known associates of Mafia figures.

The two had purchased the Bel Air Hotel in the northern part of Atlanta in 1967 and were trying to obtain a liquor license for the establishment of the Atlanta Racquet Club.

Apollo crew ready to land on the moon

By EDWIN G. PIPP

Detroit News Aerospace Writer

HOUSTON—Hurtling across the craggy and forbidding moonscape, the Apollo 11 spacemen are making final preparations to land in another world within the next few hours.

As the linked spaceships Columbia and Eagle streaked around the moon at 3,730 miles an hour, astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins seemed as relaxed and jocular as if they were on a Sunday picnic.

They took television viewers back home on a guided tour of the scarred and hostile surface where Armstrong and Aldrin will walk early Monday, seeking answers to questions that have puzzled mankind for centuries.

IN A COLOR TELECAST lasting 38 minutes Saturday, the astronauts showed the exact route that their flimsy lunar taxi will travel in its perilous descent toward a landing in the moon’s Sea of Tranquility.

They pointed out landmarks like Boot Hill and Sidewinder Rille, named earlier by Apollo astronauts which will help guide Armstrong and Aldrin to what they hope will be a soft landing.

“We’ll get a real good look at this tomorrow afternoon,” Armstrong remarked.

Passing over the arid wasteland of the nearby Sea of Fertility, Collins cracked:

“The Sea of Fertility doesn’t look very fertile to me.” Then he added:

“That sounds better for our purposes than the Sea of Crises.”

“Amen to that,” replied the ground controller, Bruce McCandless.

THE LANDING SITE ITSELF was just inside the terminator, the line separating day from night on the moon, and could not be seen.

The astronauts reported some trouble with the spacecraft’s pitch, and said its nose kept inching downward.

“Looks like the LM (lunar module) wants to go down already,” Armstrong said.

They said they did not know whether the

(Concluded on Page 8A)

Apollo 11 timetable

SUNDAY

12:43 p.m.—Lunar module undocks from command ship.

1:08 p.m.—Command ship separates from lunar module.

2:11 p.m.—Descent orbit insertion.

3:03 p.m.—Powered descent to moon begins.

3:15 p.m.—Touchdown on moon.

5:20 p.m.—Armstrong, Aldrin eat; 35 minutes.

5:54 p.m.—Armstrong, Aldrin begin four-hour rest.

10:00 p.m.—Armstrong, Aldrin, in lunar module, eat; one hour.

MONDAY

12:58 a.m.—Lunar module depressurized, hatch opened, start extravehicular activity.

1:08 a.m.—Armstrong starts from lunar module to surface as Aldrin operates camera and TV.

1:16 a.m.—Armstrong steps on lunar surface.

1:23 a.m.—Armstrong collects contingency sample.

1:34 a.m.—Aldrin emerges from lunar module, photographed by Armstrong.

1:40 a.m.—Armstrong deploys TV on surface.

1:48 a.m.—Aldrin deploys solar wind collector.

1:53 a.m.—Armstrong begins bulk sample collection.

2:08 a.m.—Both inspect lunar module.

2:33 a.m.—Aldrin deploys seismic experiment; Armstrong deploys laser reflector.

2:38 a.m.—Both collect documented sample.

3:08 a.m.—Aldrin returns to lunar module.

3:18 a.m.—Lunar samples transferred to lunar module.

3:28 a.m.—Armstrong returns to lunar module.

3:38 a.m.—Hatch closed.

4:46 a.m.—Open lunar module hatch, jettison equipment.

5:09 a.m.—Armstrong, Aldrin in lunar module begin four-hour, 40-minute rest.

Sunday's index

JULY	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31	•
AUGUST	1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	•
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	•

Passing Show

Art 2E	Movie Guide 8E
Books 3E	Radio 4E
Health 4E	Science 2E
Maine 2E	Theater 5-9E

Cavanagh won't confirm or deny call to aid Mafia-linked pair on bar license

By BERL FALBAUM

Chief of Our City-County Bureau

Did Mayor Cavanagh make a telephone call in 1967 to Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. interceding on behalf of two reputed underworld figures trying to obtain a liquor license for an exclusive club there?

Cavanagh refuses to confirm or deny the report. His only answer is a terse “no comment.”

Allen has the same answer.

But an Atlanta alderman, then in charge of the committee which rejected the license, says he was told such a call was made.

He said his information came from an Atlanta newspaperman, who in turn was given the information by Allen.

Meanwhile it was learned the FBI and a special task force from the U.S. Department of Justice, operating in Detroit for the last year, were checking into the backgrounds of the two men—Armand Cerami and Anthony Charles Sweet—who purchased an Atlanta hotel and dropped it when they were rebuffed on a liquor license.

It was also learned the same investigators have more than a passing interest in the alleged telephone call from Detroit.

Cerami and Sweet are both from Miami, and, according to Atlanta police, are known associates of Mafia figures.

The two had purchased the Bel Air Hotel in the northern part of Atlanta in 1967 and were trying to obtain a liquor license for the establishment of the Atlanta Racquet Club.

THEY APPLIED FOR THE LICENSE to a police committee headed by Alderman Richard C. Freeman.

In Atlanta, aldermen are appointed to head various city departments and are, in effect, responsible for running those departments. The mayor appoints the aldermen to committees.

City officials requested police reports on the two, including reports from the FBI, and found them to be associated with “men of questionable character.”

Cerami and Sweet, particularly Cerami, police and city officials said, had connections with Mafia leaders in various parts of the country.

(Concluded on Page 4A)



MAYOR CAVANAGH



MAYOR ALLEN